

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145996

FOR ASST. SECTY MAYNES

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 5068 ACTION SECSTATE JUN 22

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD CONFERENCE - ARTICLE 17 AND STRUCTURE

1. INFORMAL MEETINGS CALLED BY ILC PRESIDENT AMEDUME
TOOK PLACE ALL DAY JUNE 21, TRYING TO REACH AGREEMENT
ON STATEMENT DRAFTED BY AMEDUME AND DESIGNED TO BREAK
IMPASSE IN COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE (SC). BRITISH,
FRENCH AND BELGIAN GOVT REPS AS INDIVIDUALS (RATHER
THAN AS REPS OF IMEC GROUP) MADE EFFORT TO HAVE
AMEDUME'S DRAFT INCLUDE SEVERAL POINTS OF COMMON AGREE-
MENT (SENTENCE SAYING DIRECTOR GENERAL SHOULD USE
POWERS HE ALREADY HAS UNDER ARTICLE 17 TO REJECT
AMENDMENTS, USING PRINCIPLES DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE;
DELETE ANY REFERENCE TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN
1979; AVOID SAYING ARTICLE 17 CAN ONLY BE DEALT WITH
AS PART OF STRUCTURE "PACKAGE"). G-77 REPS REFUSED
TO ACCEPT ANY CHANGES.

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2. AT LONG IMEC MEETING LATE IN DAY PARTICIPANTS IN
INFORMAL MEETINGS REPORTED THEY HAD DONE THEIR BEST
BUT FAILED. FEW IMEC REPS EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. WOULD
ACCEPT REPORT AS IT STOOD BECAUSE IF U.S. INSISTED ON
CHANGE, NO AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED. USREP WHO HAD
DELIBERATELY NOT PARTICIPATED IN INFORMAL MEETINGS

THEN TOOK LEAD IN DISCUSSION (AFTER CONSULTING WITH U.S. WORKER AND EMPLOYER REPS) BY STATING THAT U.S. COULD NOT ACCEPT AMEDUME DRAFT REPORT, AND BY INSISTING THAT CHANGES BE MADE IN LANGUAGE ON KEY POINTS; USREP SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE, WHICH WAS ENDORSED BY IMEC.

3. AMEDUME REACTION TO IMEC DRAFT WAS THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. G-77 WAS REPORTEDLY STILL CONSIDERING AMEDUME DRAFT WHEN INFORMED OF IMEC REACTION; G-77 THEN ADJOURNED TO ATTEND EVENING SESSION OF STRUCTURE COMMITTEE (SC).

4. AT SC SESSION, CHAIRMAN AZIMI PROPOSED AND MEMBERS AGREED, THAT SC OFFICERS WOULD DRAFT "FACTUAL" REPORT WHICH WOULD REFLECT LACK OF ACTION AND CONSENSUS ON SC AGENDA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AGREEMENT TO RECONVENE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE (WPS). USREP ASKED HOW ARTICLE 17 WOULD BE HANDLED, BUT CHAIRMAN'S ANSWER WAS VAGUE. WORKER AND EMPLOYER REPS INDICATED OUTCOME OF CS WORK UNFORTUNATE BUT THEY COULD ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT TO WRITE SC REPORT. G-77 INDICATED EVEN LESS COMMITMENT BUT ALSO ACCEPTED OUTCOME.

5. COS DRAFT REPORT TO BE AVAILABLE JUNE 22 MORNING FOR CONSIDERATION BY SEPARATE MEETINGS OF EMPLOYERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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G-77 AND IMEC. COS TO MEET LATER IN MORNING. PLENARY WILL CONSIDER REPORT IN AFTERNOON. USREP PLANS MAKE STATEMENT EXPLAINING OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IN RESULTS, BUT WILL NOT SEEK VOTE ON ARTICLE 17 SINCE THIS WOULD OVERTHROW CHAIRMAN'S SCENARIO AGREED TO BY WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS, AND PROBABLY LEAD TO CLEARCUT DEFEAT ON ARTICLE 17 (WHICH SOME IMEC REPS FEEL WOULD MAKE ACTION ON THIS ISSUE MORE DIFFICULT IN 1978, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL SUPPORT US IF WE SEEK VOTE) AND LEAD TO FAVORABLE VOTE ON G-77 RESOLUTION ON STRUCTURE. SORENSON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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